

Call for Recipes

Why Is This Cookbook Different From All Others?

The Sha'ar Zahav Cookbook is a San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Jewish Cookbook. We want recipes that are Gay, Jewish and San Franciscan.

The number one question asked of the Cookbook Committee is "What kind of recipes will we include?" We seek recipes that have a ring of Jewishness about them and some humorous and/or poignant anecdote accompanying them: something special prepared by your mother, father, grandmother, grandfather or other relative which brings back memories of taste, aroma and fullness. Tell us about them! Perhaps you can recall something sampled on a Jewish holiday, something prepared for a celebration at Sha'ar Zahav for an oneg or havdalah, or perhaps a dish you discovered on a trip to Israel or to that wonderful deli in Brooklyn. Tell us about them!

If you're still drawing a blank, don't worry. We're compiling a gay San Francisco cookbook as well. Send in recipes that relate to being gay or lesbian and/or living in San Francisco. Tell us about it with taste and with menus. For example, tell us about a special dish for after the SF Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, or the menu for your favorite romantic dinner for two, or the story of a memorable coming-out party, or (the best yet!) the menu for a springtime brunch or an early fall picnic in the Marin headlands.

Beyond involving our members and friends in something fun and worthwhile with your recipes and stories, this cookbook can tell everyone who we are and where we grew up and where we are now.

It can let readers know that gay people have important ongoing family and cultural ties. This book can express our Jewish heritage and tell the colorful story of our Congregation. In addition, we can raise money for the AIDS Food Drive and the continued activities of our Congregation. It's a chance for each of us to be a part of this quality publication which expresses who we are—with taste.

So sit down this week and fill out a recipe form... and tell us about that recipe!

Study Shabbat with Rabbi Gunther Plaut

Rabbi Gunther Plaut, editor of *The Torah—A Modern Commentary*, will be the featured speaker at a "Shabbat of Study" co-sponsored by the Reform synagogues of San Francisco. Rabbi Plaut will speak on "How the Bible Should Really Be Read" at Congregation Sherith Israel, at California and Webster Streets, on Friday night, February 21st, at 8:15 p.m. On Saturday morning, February 22nd, he will speak on "Two Biblical Puzzles" at Temple Emanu-El, Lake and Arguello Streets at 10:30 a.m.

A former president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Rabbi Plaut is Senior Scholar of Holy Blossom Congregation, Toronto, Canada. Sha'ar Zahav is jointly sponsoring this program with Congregations Beth Israel Judea, Emanu-El and Sherith Israel.

Incident at the Consulate

It's always sunny on the second Wednesday of the month. That's the day that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav participates in the vigil at the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco. Every day from 11:30 a.m. to noon, the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jewry sees to it that someone is present to call attention to the plight of our people still held captive in the Soviet Union.

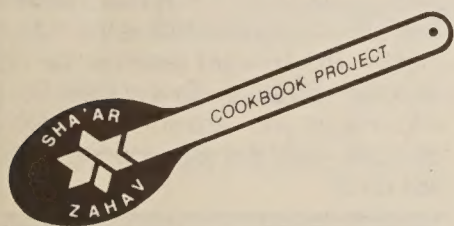


PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS

Sha'ar Zahav's representatives, Richard Inlander and Ron Lezell, at the Vigil for Soviet Jewry—on a day when they could picket directly in front of the Soviet Consulate.

On Wednesday January 8, Ron Lezell and Richard Inlander, who picket every month as Sha'ar Zahav's representatives, were the sole protesters. They took up the slow march back and forth on the sidewalk across the street from the imposing building on the corner of Green & Baker Streets. In the past, they and others had attempted to picket on the walk directly

(Continued on page 9)



President's Column

During our January meeting I recommended and the Va'ad approved the new Election Committee. The members are David Stein, Chair, Leila Raim, Mark Mendelow, David Kotch and Laurie Davis. These Sha'ar Zahavniks will be responsible for nomination of our four officers and members at large to the Va'ad. In addition they will operate our election process. The development of new leadership is important to the continuing success of our Synagogue, so please look for information from the Election Committee and consider increasing your level of participation.

During my term, I have seen an increase in new or potential members who have children. On several occasions I have been asked about our plans for children's programming or education. This is an important subject for us. Clearly, children are always welcomed at all of our events or services, but both the Rabbi and I feel that this matter needs continued discussion. During March we will sponsor a meeting for members with children to discuss needs and expectations. This will provide input for our Congregational planning for the future. Now is the time to hear what our members would like to see develop. People with ideas should contact either Rabbi Kahn or myself and look for the meeting announcement in the next issue of *The Forward*.

My last subject for this month is our continuing involvement in AIDS-related work. Since last October, when the UAHC passed our resolution, there has been growing interest in the Jewish community here and in other parts of the country. Dan Najjar, the Social Action Chair at Bet Mishpacha, our sibling con-

gregation in Washington, DC, has been working on a Jewish community mobilization project. He has been able to arrange a meeting with representatives of Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements, Federation leadership, Family Service agencies and Gay/Lesbian organizations. We hope that this effort will result in large scale educational programs for synagogues and Jewish agencies throughout the nation. Rabbi Kahn will represent Sha'ar Zahav at the upcoming meeting. He will explain how we, and the San Francisco Jewish Community have responded to the AIDS crisis. We both hope that our experiences and methods can become an important model for other areas of the country. I am very pleased that we are able to help others provide much needed support.

Shalom,

Don

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained more new members in January. A warm welcome to new members:

Marty Carls
Dan H.
Steve Shotland

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

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The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Richard Inlander, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by Art-spec Imaging Ltd.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

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Remember The Brotherhood

Attention men, members and non-members: Sunday, February 2nd, we will be kicking off the first Brotherhood event. Come to the brunch and visit the Judah Magnes Museum/Western Jewish History Center. It all starts at the home of Allen Gold and David Gass, 424 Central Ave., S.F., 10:30 am . . . \$5.00 at the door and we supply brunch. Bring your car, and we will car pool to Berkeley.

Election Committee Named

Election time is almost here again! At its January meeting, the Va'ad appointed the following people to serve as an election committee: Laurie Davis, David Kotch, Mark Mendelow, Leila Raim, and David Stein, who will serve as chair. What the election committee does is seek, solicit, entice, enthrall, encourage, enlighten, jawbone, and ultimately recommend a slate of people to run for office: President, Vice-president, Recorder, Treasurer, and Va'ad member. The slate is submitted to the Congregation for approval/consideration at its annual meeting in May.

In future newsletters, you will be reading about the various positions that are open and the qualifications needed to be considered as a candidate. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments or would like to be considered for a position, please call David Stein (431-7541) and talk.

Ware Can You Have a Bowl?

Why . . . at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Tupperware party. This long-awaited event will happen on Sunday afternoon, March 2nd starting at 2:00 pm at Church Street Gardens, 345 Church Street, San Francisco.

In addition to the usual fun and silliness anticipated, we'll be offering a prize for the best-dressed "Homemaker" costume. Anything is possible here—don't miss it.

This program offers the synagogue an opportunity to receive several hundred dollars in commissions. In addition to attending and buying the products, you can also become a temporary "Tupperperson" and help raise even more funds for us. You can do this by picking up the catalogs and order forms now available on the membership table on Friday nights. Give them

to your friends, family and co-workers and take orders for the merchandise. Bring the order forms back to us and Sha'ar Zahav will receive a 15% commission. This can quickly turn into a significant amount. If each member sells or spends \$25, we could earn \$1,000 in commissions. Prizes are offered for orders exceeding \$100 and for top sellers. Naturally, you shouldn't ever go hungry while fundraising, so goodies will be served.

Now's the time to replace all those lost lids, bowls left at the last potluck you went to, pieces you've burned on the stove or mangled in the dishwasher. Start stitching your costumes today, and mark your March 2nd calendar.

If you need directions or any other information, call the synagogue office. See you there.

Passover Around the Corner

Mark your calendars, prepare your young ones for the four questions and gear up for the 1986 Congregational Second Night Seder set for Thursday night, April 24th. Again we will share a wonderful seder ceremony and ritual dinner. Look for details in the next issue of *The Forward*.

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Rabbi Kahn! On January 12th at Congregation Rodef Shalom in San Rafael, he was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern California Chapter of the American Jewish Congress, a national Jewish organization dedicated to the safeguarding of civil liberties and religious freedom.

Painting Party Planned

Rejoice! The long-awaited renovation of the second floor of the shul are scheduled for February. The most important feature of the building is the construction of private offices for Rabbi Kahn and Marilyn Hertzberg. During the renovation period, the office schedule will have to be tailored around construction activities, so please phone ahead if you need to see Marilyn.

After renovations are completed, a festive congregational painting party will be held (BYOBO—Bring Your Own Bib Overalls). Anyone interested in a heavy coat of off-white, please call Marilyn to add your name to the guest list.

Finally, our thanks to everyone for their patience during the next month. It'll be worth it.

MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.

Besides the benefits
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

R A L P H E F R I S C H M A N
d e s i g n c o n s u l t a n t

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The Meaning of Zionism

This fall marked the tenth anniversary of the passage of the United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring that "Zionism equals racism." The greatest harm done by the resolution, and by the attendant political rhetoric which made it possible, was to the word "Zionism" itself. In political discourse, "Zionism" has become a pejorative term, linked inexorably with communism or capitalism, depending on the outlook of the speaker.

We should not be afraid to call ourselves Zionists. Zionism is not a bad word but an honored and noble one which needs to be reclaimed for what it truly represents. In order to do so, "Zionism" must be wrested away from those who have twisted its meaning and subverted its message. The abuse occurs in at least four different contexts.

The historical rhetoric of anti-Semitism has been replaced by anti-Zionism. The "international Jewish conspiracy" of the last century has become "the international Zionist plot" of our own day. The Aryan Brotherhood and other ultra-right groups

in America trace their economic difficulties to the "Zionist plot" while the Polish government blames its troubles on "Zionist agitators"—even though there are no Jews left in Poland!

On the political left, Zionism is ranked with imperialism and racism as one of the great political oppressions of our day. Zionism is described as a movement with a deplorable history and a fundamentally oppressive ideology as its centerpiece.

What then is Zionism? In the words of Chaim Herzog, now President of the State of Israel, "Zionism is the name of the national movement of the Jewish people and is the modern expression of the ancient Jewish heritage. The Zionist ideal, as set out in the Bible, has been, and is, an integral part of the Jewish religion. In modern times, in the late nineteenth century, spurred by the twin forces of anti-Semitic persecution and of nationalism, the Jewish people organized the Zionist movement in order to transform their dream into reality. Zionism as a political movement was the revolt of an oppressed

nation against the depredation and wicked discrimination and oppression of the countries in which anti-Semitism flourished."

I am most hurt and upset by Jews who tell me "I am not a Zionist." I do not believe that it is possible to be "a Jew but not a Zionist." This assertion is put forth only because the word "Zionist" itself has been so abused. A Zionist believes in the right of the Jewish people to have a national home. Zionists are committed to the existence of the State of Israel. But Zionists do not wish Israel to simply exist! We hope to see it flourish and the hopes of its founding fulfilled—because "existence" alone is not enough. It is loyalty to the Zionist tradition and the teachings of the Jewish people that leads Zionists to be concerned with the national aspirations of the Palestinians. Out of love for Zion, Zionists seek a lasting and real peace between Israel and her neighbors with justice for all of the peoples of the area. Most significantly, it

(Continued on page 5)

COMING THIS PURIM

Polyester

MEGILLAH MADNESS IV

MARCH 22 1986

Office Notes

It is very expensive for the synagogue to learn of address changes through the post office. Please let us know by note or a message on the office answering machine of any changes in your address.

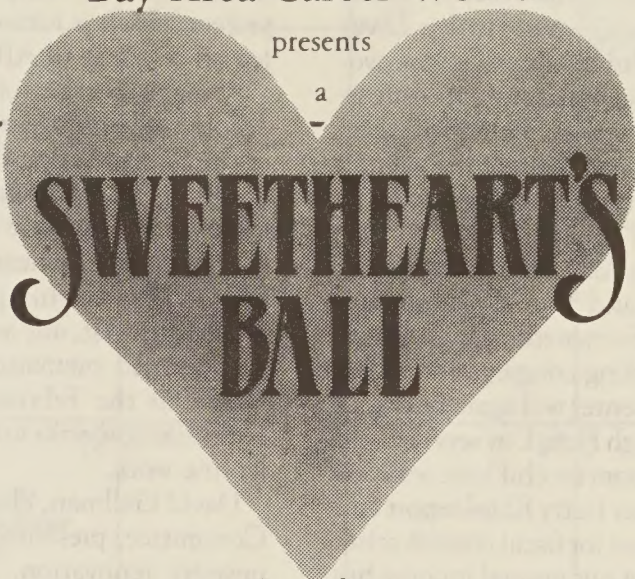
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I regularly get information on programs that are of interest to children. If you have children, and want to have access to that information, please call or write to me with their names and ages. As pertinent flyers, etc. come to my attention, I will share them with you.

Yahrzeits

- 1 (22 Shevat) Minnie Wiseman, Grandmother of Jonathan Funk
- 1 Goldie Kornblitt Lieberman, Mother of Gershon Lieberman and Grandmother of Debbie Lieberman
- 2 Eleanor Pranke, Grandmother of Dan Bellm
- 3 Leon Childress, Father of Joyce Amburgey
- 3 Lee Hartstone, Father of Jane Stone
- 4 Bette Friedman, Mother of Jeff Friedman
- 6 (27 Shevat) Rose Kramer, Grandmother of Steve Cronenwalt
- 7 Lillete Wilks, Mother of Shelley Fernandez
- 8 (29 Shevat) Catherine Albert, Grandmother of Don Albert
- 10 Hyman Dolinsky, Grandfather of Naomi Baran
- 15 Ben Shuchat, Grandfather of David Stein
- 15 Yetta Shuchat, Grandmother of David Stein
- 17 Abraham Spiro, Grandfather of Shelley Spiro
- 21 Evelyn Klein, Mother of Elliott Klein
- 21 Asher Liberman, Father of Shirley Liberman
- 21 Gary Walsh, Friend of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 26 Joseph Fichelson, Grandfather of Kipp Leyser
- 27 Gertrude Liberman, Mother of Shirley Liberman
- 28 Samuel Dreskin, Father-in-law of Barry Siegel

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a



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Rabbi's Column (Continued from page 4)

is from love and loyalty that we can criticize the actions and policies of the government. I frequently find myself fundamentally opposed to the basic policies of the American government. But I do not renounce my citizenship! Jews everywhere are non-resident spiritual citizens of Israel. It is our Jewish duty to work to promote justice in Israel and oppose policies of the Israeli government which are harmful to Zionist ideals. But even those who most strongly disagree with the government of the United States do not question whether America has a right to exist!

Similarly disturbing is the assault on and abuse of the Zionist ideal expressed in the jingoism and racism of Meir Kahane. His rantings are a perversion of the

Zionist tradition and a threat to Israeli democracy. His rise to prominence in Israel (and his American financial backers) are subjects of deep concern in Israel. The result has been an outpouring of anti-racism and pro-democracy organizing and education throughout Israeli society. While I am deeply offended by Kahane, I am proud of the response by much of Israeli society.

Zionism, and the Jewish homeland it set out to establish, cannot be abandoned to those who would irreparably change or harm them. American Jews cannot abdicate from their responsibility to speak and act on behalf of Zion.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad met as usual on the second Monday of the month (January 13) in the Oneg room, at 6:30 p.m. In his D'var Torah, Rabbi Kahn briefly traced the evolution of the concept that we are all created in the divine image. The Board then proceeded with a rather lengthy agenda much of which is reflected elsewhere in this issue of *The Forward*.

President Don Albert reported that he, Leslie Bergson and Daniel Chesir met with a group in Sacramento which is hoping to form a sibling congregation. Also, the Unitarian Center will again be the location of our High Holy Day services and has included a room for childcare at no extra cost. Treasurer Betty Kalis' report emphasized the need for fiscal conservatism since the bulk of our annual income has already been received.

Rabbi Kahn reported on his numerous and varied activities including his election to the board of the Northern California Jewish Congress and his responses to the community's requests for guidance around AIDS issues. The Va'ad unanimously approved expenditure of a sum

needed to send Rabbi Kahn to New York at the end of February to participate in a project which is formulating a national Jewish response to AIDS.

A major portion of the evening was devoted to a discussion led by Ron Lezell of the Social Action Committee on the question of the Congregation's response to the Sanctuary issue. Since the Congregation had not yet heard and digested the presentation on this question scheduled for January 31st, any action by the Board was deemed premature. The issue was tabled to the February meeting—with enthusiastic thanks to the Committee for its fine work.

David Gellman, chair of the Building Committee, presented the final bid for upstairs renovation, which the Va'ad unanimously accepted. Work should begin any time.

Education Committee Chair Paul Cohen presented the Library Subcommittee's detailed recommendations regarding the establishment of a congregational library and its views on the possibility of accepting a gift of a collection which was

being offered jointly to Sha'ar Zahav and Ahavat Shalom. After due consideration of a number of factors including administrative requirements and lack of facilities, the Board decided that we are unable to accept the gift at this time.

This report can only highlight the many aspects of congregational life that your elected representatives grapple with each month. All members are welcome to attend and participate in these important meetings. See you February 10th!

—Richard Inlander, Recorder

Sacramento Gay/Lesbian Group

A group of lesbian and gay Jews is planning to gather on a monthly basis. Arrangements are being made for a meeting place and programs which may include a Sacramento Community Seder. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to participate in planning, please contact Brian Polejes at (916) 443-1319.

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FEBRUARY

שבט - אדר א

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						22 Shevat 1
23 2	24 3	25 4	26 5	27 6	28 7	29 8
Brotherhood Brunch & Museum Visit 567-7654		Education Night 7:30pm		Building Comm. 6:30pm Newsletter Comm. 7pm 330 Collingwood	Services 8:15pm	
30 9	1 Adar I 10	2 11	3 12	4 13	5 14	6 15
New Members' Social 2pm Super Sunday Telethon Rosh Chodesh	Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Rosh Chodesh 2nd Day	Education Night 7:30pm	Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am		Services 8:15pm	
7 16	8 17	9 18	10 19	11 20	12 21	13 22
		Education Night 7:30pm	Finance Comm. 6:30pm, 921-0581		Services 8:15pm Rabbi Plaut Sherith Israel 8:15pm	Morning Services 10:30am Rabbi Plaut Temple Emanu-El 10:30am
14 23	15 24	16 25	17 26	18 27	19 28	
		Education Night 7:30pm		Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr.	Services 8:15pm	

Ritual Calendar

Friday, February 7

Parshah: Mishpatim, Ex. 21:1-24:18

Haftarah: Samuel 20:18-42

Susan Unger, Services

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Sermon

Friday, February 14

Parshah: Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19

Haftarah: I Kings, 5:26-6:13

Dana Vinicoff, Services

Friday, February 21

Parshah: Tetzavveh, Ex. 27:20-30:10

Haftarah: Ezekiel, 43:10-27

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Saturday, February 22

Shabbat Morning Services, 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, February 28

Parshah: Ki-Tissa, Ex. 30:1-34:35

Haftarah: I Kings 18:1-39

Steve Greenberg, Services

March Preview

Friday, March 7

Parshah: Va-Yakhel, Ex. 35:1-38:20

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-17

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

High Holiday Appeal 5746

Partial lists of High Holiday contributors appeared in the December and January *Forward*. The following contributors are the last (but not the least). Our thanks to all for your rewarding response.

Sue Libow
Charles Pasternack
Harvey Rosenthal
Susan Jacobs
Andrea Temkin
Chuck Polansky

Birthdays

- 3 David Gass
- 5 Ami Zusman
- 7 Mark Mendelow
- 11 Robert Stern
- 12 Barry Rosen
- 14 Irene Ogus
- 14 Sue Douglass
- 14 Ronald Wolberg
- 15 Russell Discher
- 17 Barry Siegel
- 23 Hal Heller
- 25 Alex Ingersoll
- 25 Earl Diskin
- 27 Leila Raim
- 28 Bruce Katz

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Why do we say Hamotzie at our oneg every Friday Night before we eat? I know this is the prayer for bread, and we do eat challah afterwards, but truthfully, don't you like cake better than plain challah? Couldn't we learn the blessing for cake, and just say that instead?

Hungry in the Haight

Dear Hungry,

Aunt Yente thanks you for your excellent question. The challah we have at our onegs is *zehr* tasty, but cake she likes too. So she will have to start research: first a bit of challah, then a piece of cake, then another piece challah (with maybe a bit of flanken to wash it down). It will take her *nebech* a long time to decide precisely which she likes better, but to answer her reader's questions, no sacrifice is too great for your Aunt Yente.

But maybe it was for your second question that you really wanted an answer? Why challah to start the oneg, and not just go immediately to the cake? For this, Aunt Yente has to tell you a little about the blessings that we say before we eat food, and how they work. In other words, which comes first, the chicken or the *motzie*?

(You should excuse your Aunt Yente, writing about food while she's not eating—it always leads to bad jokes. Wait a minute while she has another bite of cake. Ah, *s'michaia!*)

The Torah does not mention blessings before food; it says that *after* you eat and are satisfied, you should bless God. The ideas of saying blessings before food comes only from the Talmud; so to say blessings before food but not after, like some of Aunt Yente's friends, is getting the priorities a little backwards. This, however, was not your question.

So the rabbis established different blessings to be said before different types of food. Each begins (like every other bless-

ing) *Boruch atoh Adonoi Eloheinu melech hoh'olam*—"Bless You Adonai, our almighty God, Guardian of everything"—and then thanks God for creating the particular food. So as you already know, for bread, we say *Hamotzie lechem min hoh'ohretz*—"Who brings bread out of the ground."

Other blessings go with other foods—the Jewish equivalent of a wine list. So for cake and other things made of grain which aren't bread, the blessing is a slender, straw-colored *borei minei mizonos*—"who creates the varieties of food." For wine, or grapes, you use a rich, full-bodied *borei pri hagofen*—"who creates the fruit of the vine"; for fruit, a simple, sunny *borei pri hoh-eitz*—"who creates the fruit of the tree"; for vegetables, an assertive, fragrant *borei pri hoh-adomoh*—"who creates the fruit of the ground." For everything else—Perrier, tournedos de boeuf a la Rossini, sashimi, frittatas, brie, cognac, gelato, a nice cup of Maxwell house—there is one encompassing blessing: *she-hakol niyeh bidvohro*—"whose word created everything."

Now as Aunt Yente's faithful readers will have already guessed, nothing can be this simple. For example, what is bread and what is cake? (Answer: It depends, mostly—but not entirely—on how the food is being used.) Is the blessing for applesauce the same as the blessing for apples? (Answer: No; because you have cooked something that is usually eaten raw, the blessing moves "down" a rung, from the specific "fruit of the tree" to the more general "fruit of the earth"—*borei pri hoh-adomoh*.) And what if you sit down to a plate with different kinds of food? Do you say one blessing before the brown rice, and another before the avocado cutlet, and still another before the potato tartare? (Come to think of it, maybe Aunt Yente has to start eating in a different kind of restaurant.)

This last question, about blessings at a meal with many different foods, is really the answer to your question about starting our onegs with *hamotzie*. At the beginning of a meal, it is enough to say just the blessing over bread, because bread is the most basic and most important food. Then, all the other food is covered by that one blessing. So, it is traditional to start each meal with saying *hamotzie* and eating bread. (The bread also has messianic symbolism, but they refuse to devote the whole newsletter to your Aunt Yente, so she has no time to explain.)

Strictly speaking, the *motzie* at the be-

ginning of our oneg does not serve the halachic purpose of excusing blessings on the other food we eat. Only a *motzie* made before a meal works this way; and although our onegs are delicious, and usually are well-balanced among the four basic food groups (cake, cookies, pastry and coffee), if we tried to promote them as a meal, the Surgeon General would *eppes* have something to say. Since it is not a meal, each kind of food we eat there should really receive its appropriate blessing. But it is still a nice tradition to begin, all together, with the *motzie*.

But Yente, you are probably asking; do you really take the need to say these things seriously? The answer, *kinderlach*, is yes. It seems important to your Aunt Yente to remember that apples don't come from a plastic bag in the refrigerator; they grow on trees that blossom, and send out leaves, and bear fruit. Potatoes are not manufactured in the back room at McDonalds; every year there is a miracle, where a little shoot grows in the earth, and its green leaves gather the sunlight and make it into food below the ground. A wonderful Creator has been at work here, and our specific thanks before enjoying a particular part of creation are not only good manners, but important to remind us how wonderful is the world we take care of.

(If your Aunt Yente sounds a little flowery, you must remember that she doesn't often get to write about things as dear to her heart as food.)

So Aunt Yente will excuse you from remembering details like applesauce versus apples, and she certainly doesn't care if you use Hebrew or English, or the "right" order of words; but if you want to come to dinner at her house, then some kind of thank You—for the tree, for the ground, for the world—you should get used to making before you eat.

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114.

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Consulate (Continued from page 1)

in front of the building, only to be ordered across the street by someone who had spotted them through the camera equipment mounted on the corners of the fortress. (This very man had firmly declined Hannah Blazewick's offer to sell him one of our Chanukah raffle tickets at the November vigil, despite her protestations that it was for a "good cause.")

Ron and Richard were debating whether to attempt picketing on the consulate side of the street when a San Francisco police car pulled up and one of the officers informed them that they were in violation of a federal rule which requires picketing to be 100 feet from the consulate. They expressed surprise, since across-the-street marching had always been acceptable. But the officers were adamant; the rule had always been 100 feet, but it had never been enforced. For some unknown reason the Soviets had decided to insist on its enforcement now. Richard inquired what the consequences would be if they elected to picket as always, and the officer replied that he would have no choice but to arrest them. The two decided that they were not interested in being arrested that day, but continued to engage the friendly officers in an extended conversation directly in front of the building. They held their picket signs ("Let My People Go") high, facing those cameras, for about 15 minutes. As the officers pulled away, they pointed out the red line they had painted on the curb about half a block away from the consulate. There Ron and Richard picketed for a few minutes, crossing back and forth across the street so as to be as visible as possible.

About five minutes before noon, tired of picketing at this 100-foot mark, they marched slowly across the front of the building to the mark 100 feet from the other corner. As the vigil ended, they could not help but wonder at the irony of a decision to enforce this rule on the heels of the Geneva Summit. As we go to press, the Bay Area Council is looking into the incident.

More vigil volunteers are always welcome. Remember, Sha'ar Zahav's time is the second Wednesday of the month, 11:30 a.m. to noon, Green and Baker Streets. Placards are provided. For more information, contact Ron Lezell (641-8477) or Richard Inlander (821-4134).

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

General Fund

Betty Estelle
Perry Paker, in memory of his father Isidore and brother Meyer
Ronald Wolberg, in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus
Ann Lenway, in honor of Jerry Rosenstein
Bertram Brauer
Hal Stoll, in honor of Rose Stolowitz
B. Scott Levine
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Jack Gaines
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Ede Rosen
Isabelle Fishman, in honor of the congregation's Chanukah activities
Edith Wellin
Keith Barton
Philip Charney, in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus

AIDS Fund

Mike Rankin, in memory of Pat Healey's mother
Elliot Schneck
Anonymous
Paul Glackman, in loving memory of his oldest and best friend, Paul Edward Daniels, who died of AIDS on Gay Pride Day
Allen Harris, in memory of his friends and patients, and to honor all those fighting for their lives.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of his grandfather on his yahrzeit
Renee and Marc Lipschutz, in memory of A. Martin Lipschutz

Torah Fund

Sen Talley, in honor of the yahrzeit of her father Manuel Nachman

Social Action Fund

John Golebowski, in honor of Ron Lezell's birthday
Steve Elman, wishing Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper much joy in their new home; and Cheryl Orvis a speedy recovery.
Blanche Blachman, Adrienne Forshay and Benjamin Blachman Forshay, in memory of Ben Blachman.
Marsha Blachman, in memory of her father Ben Blachman

Library Fund

Steve Elman, in memory of Jonathan Schwartz' father, Morris

Education Fund

Steve Elman, in honor of the naming of Joshua Lawrence Kennedy Rose
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CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

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The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.—check calendar for each month.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of December, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

December 6—Yoram Gal in honor of Ralph Frischman's and David Shaber's birthdays (Yoram's also, but he wasn't counting it!)

December 20—Michael McCormick in celebration of becoming a member of CSZ.

December 27—Perry Paker, in memory of the yahrzeits of his father, Isidore, and brother, Meyer. Mike Rankin provided flowers in honor of Florence Chisholm's 90th birthday.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.



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A Vanished World

"A Vanished World," Roman Vishniac's photographic testament of Eastern European Jewish life in the years immediately preceding the Holocaust, will have its West Coast premiere January 12–March 30, 1986, at the Judah L. Magnes Museum.

Sensing the oncoming Holocaust while in Berlin, Vishniac traveled 5000 miles across Eastern Europe between 1933 and 1939, photographing the doomed Jewish ghetto and shtetl life so that posterity could know "of the life that disappeared, of the life that is no more." "The World that Disappeared," a slide-tape narrated by Vishniac, accompanies the exhibit.

The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street in Berkeley. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Friday, closed Jewish and legal holidays. Admission is free. For further information phone 849-2710.